

same general plan, but the ground-colour is dark grizzled grey, which, however, is only present on the anterior two-thirds of the body, the head and rump deep chestnut-rufous. Dorsal lines almost obsolete, the median one represented by segments of a few millimetres on the nose and nape and an ill-defined line on the posterior back ending level with the hips; the outer lines only about an inch in length, ill-defined and scarcely perceptible. Under surface soiled greyish, the ends of the hairs drabby white. Cheeks, like crown, rich rufous; chin pale rufous. Hands brown. Feet with the outer side of the metatarsus brown, inner dull whitish; digits naked. Tail brown above, lighter below.

Skull not so flattened as in *iheringi*, more of the general shape of that of *americana*, the brain-case comparatively high and rounded.

Dimensions of the type (measured on a spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 80 mm.; tail 36; hind foot 14; ear 10.

Skull: greatest length 25.2; condylo-basal length 25; zygomatic breadth 13.5; nasals 10×3.8 ; interorbital breadth 5.4; palatal length 14.5; maxillary tooth-row 10.7; three anterior molariform teeth 4.6.

Hab. Theresopolis, Organ Mts., Brazil.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 21. 8. 6. 2. Received in exchange from Prof. J. P. Hill.

This pretty little species is readily distinguishable from *M. iheringi* by its rufous head and rump, its greyish fore-back, and its obsolescent dark dorsal lines.

XLV.—*A new Cotton-tail (Sylvilagus) from Colombia.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

THE British Museum owes to Frère Nicéforo Maria of Medellín an example of a fine *Sylvilagus* which seems to be different from any described species. It may be called

Sylvilagus nicefori, sp. n.

A member of the short-eared group, the tail almost obsolete.

Fur fairly soft, hairs of back about 23–25 mm. in length.

General colour dark, mixed buffy and blackish, the buffy comparatively pale, not strong and ochraceous. Sides paler buffy. Under surface dull whitish anteriorly, dull buffy posteriorly, the hairs slaty at base. Forehead and nape buffy ochraceous, the nape-patch extending beyond the ends of the short ears. Proectote blackish, slightly suffused with

buffy; metentote dull whitish, its edges inconspicuously buffy. Sides of head grizzled greyish, very slightly suffused with buffy. Chin dull whitish, interramia white. Neck-band broad, the ends of the hairs deep buffy, the underfur dark slaty blackish. Front of fore limbs and upper side of feet ochraceous, inner side of thighs buffy, not white as in *apollinaris*. Tail almost obsolete, its situation marked by a small tuft of brownish hair amid the buffy of the rump.

Skull about as large as that of *S. purgatus*, larger and, especially, broader than that of *S. salentus*. Interorbital region flat, parallel-sided, not broadened anteriorly. Post-orbital processes well developed, slender. Bullæ small.

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Head and body 420 mm.; tail about 5; hind foot 76; ear 45.

Skull: greatest length 75; condylo-incisive length 68; zygomatic breadth 36.5; nasals, oblique length 31.5, greatest breadth 16.3; interorbital breadth 16; intertemporal breadth 12; palatal foramina, length 18.7, breadth 7; breadth of palate between anterior premolars 11.3; cheek-tooth series (alveoli) 14.5.

Hab. Medellin. Type from San Pedro, another specimen from Concordia (*J. K. Salmon*).

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 21.7.1.26. Original number 12. Collected December 1919. Received in exchange from Frère Nicéforo Maria.

This *Sylvilagus* is nearly allied to *S. apollinaris* of Bogotá, but is duller-coloured, with less prominently white under surface, especially posteriorly. From *S. salentus*, Allen, of which Mr. Anthony has kindly furnished me with some additional details, it is distinguished by its broader nasals and interorbital region, and its even shorter tail.

XLVI.—On a new Willow-Titmouse from Northern Italy.

By PERCY R. LOWE, M.B.O.U., F.Z.S.

IN July last, during a short visit to the Valtournanche Valley in Northern Italy, I shot six willow-tits one morning on a steep forest-grown slope at an elevation of 7000 feet, and was struck by their peculiar and very dark appearance. Two of the birds were fully adult and much worn, while the remaining four were birds of the year in fresh plumage; but both young and adults exhibited the same striking dark coloration.

On comparing them with our series of the *Pacile atricapillus* group in the British Museum, I could find nothing